because the police department takes a long time to verify them, what we have done is that we only wait for one month or four weeks for the police verification. If it doesn't come within that period, then automatically we issue the passport.

With regard to giving the power of verification to the members of parliament, I think it would be better if the hon. member consults his colleagues in this house because last time when the passport Bill was taken up for discussion here, all the Members were unanimous in their poinion , and they said, We do not want to enjoy this power. It will create problems.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a human angle to all this discussion about the issue of passport to which I would like to draw your attention. There are thousands and thousands of poor migrants in our country who go overseas and earn valuable foreign exchange. In fact, if you take the past twenty odd years, it is mainly the foreign exchange they have remitted which has been the mainstay of our survival in international trade. And, unlike the so-called NRIs, they have no demand on our country. They send the foreign exchange and they have no demand on us. They have no charter of demands. But when they go out of the country, when they try to get passports, the treatment that they receive at the passport offices is very bad. They are treated like dirt. They do not have an organisation. Therefore, they are given the shoe. I wish we introduced a little bit of kindly touch in dealing with those people who are our fellow citizens when you scrutinise their passport applications. I wish something was done about it.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. member that we have certain categories in which we issue the passports immediately. One of them is what you have referred to. If anybody produces a letter of recruitment from abroad, the passport officers are authorised to issue the passport immediately. Similarly, if doctors, lawyers, etc. are going out of the country to atttend conferences or seminars or if sometbody is going for medical treatment, if a businessman is going abroad to sign a contract, passports are to be issued immediately. We have covered all these areas and we have issued instructions to the passport officers that they need not wait for anything and should immediately issue the passports in such cases. (*Interruptions*).

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the American embassy never charged a visa fee before for diplomatic passports. But now, it is charging Rs. 640/roughly 20 dollars. One has also to fill in certain forms. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if our Embassies abroad have been asked to do the same thing on a reciprocal basis.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: It is true that our Embassies aborad have also raised the fees for passports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 423.

Expenditure Incurred on Medical Conferences held Abroad

*423. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:†

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical personnel/ employees of Government who had gone for various medical conferences abroad during the last three years;

(b) what is the amount of expenditure incurred on them; and

(c) whether any evaluation had been made about the advantage of incurring such an expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Medical personnel/ employees of Government attend various Medical conferences which are beneficial to participants, institutions and the country. No statistical records are maintained. Expenditure is met by organisers, Central and State Governments and various institutions depending upon the nature of the conference and the participants.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that no statistical records are maintained. But in the reply to the question put by the hon. Member, Smt. Ila Panda, in November, 1992, the Minister gave the details of the statistical records; that in 1989, 101 people went for concferences, in 1990, 94 people went and in 1991, 94 people went. My first supplementary is this. They were keeping statistical records, as the reply to the question referred to says, till 1991. What is the reason for stopping maintaining the statistical records?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, the question is about all the Government employees. There are Government employees under the State Governments, Central Government and their autonomous organisations. We have records only of the Department of Health. That is partial information. So, I did not give it. a large part of the information has to come from the State Governments and autonomous organisations. That is the reason why I have stated in the reply that there is no statistical information. The question is related to all the Government employees.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the question is put to the Health Minister and it is about medical personnel.

'Medical personnel or Government employees' means the Government medical personnel under the Health Department. How do the employees of the State Government and other bodies come into the picture?

Anway, my second supplementary is that you have stated that there is no procedure for evaluation. We have been spending money for sending our people to various conferences abroad. So, we must definitely have a procedure for evaluating the benefit. There should be some procedure for determining the costbenefit, what benefit has accrued to the country when these personnel go to conferences abroad. My question to the Minister is: Would he consider developing a proper procedure for evaluating and for making a cost-benefit analysis of this?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, the country is committed to sending delegates to many conferences like the regional conference of the WHO, the conference of the Red Cross, etc. Our country is a member of these organisations. There are various sceintific conferences also. Sometimes, the organisers ask us to send experts from a particular organisation. Sometimes, the organisations send the names that such and such persons may be sent to such and such scientific conference. The persons who are selected to attend such conferences are experts in their own subjects. When the organisations give the names the Government sponsors those persons. They are eminent in their respective fields.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: They are eminent. I am not on the selection procedure of the personnel. When they come after attending such conferences, what is the benefit to the Government? What is the benefit to the institution which they represent? I want the Minister to develop some procedure whereby we can evaluate their performance there and the cost benefit of the expenditure which we have incurred on them. I am on that point.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Whenever the Government sends persons to conferences or for training or to other scientific conferences, the Government definitely gets the feedback from the participants in their respective areas. They come to know about the latest developments in their fields. They get a chance to exchange views with others about the latest scientific developments in their respective fields.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no answer to the point of evalutation. Anyway, Shrmimati Mira Das.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: It seems that the Minister has not seen the reply. This is just a casual reply from his officers. If he had seen that, he would not have stated like this It is stated that no statistical records are maintained. We are spending the country's money. How can he say that they don't maintain any record? it is a casual answer by the Minister. I want to know whether the Minister will try to keep the records of the amount spent on the persons who go out to attend conferences or to study. Will he do it in future?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, when they go as part of a Government delegation, the Government definitely

maintains the record of the expenditure. In a majority of the cases, when persons go to the regional conference of the WHO and other conferences, the organisation meets the expenditure. I can give the number of persons from the Health Department. In 1991, it was 292; in 1992, it was 236 and in 1993-94, it was 220. The expenditure incurred was, in 1991, Rs.0.21 lakhs; in 1992, Rs.9.63 lakhs; and in 1993-94 Rs.13 lakhs.

*424. *[The Questioner (Shri Janardhana Poojary] was absent. For answer vide col 30 infra.]*

Filling up of Seats in MBBS Course from Central Government's Quota

*425. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Government of India's seats for MBBS course in the various medical colleges of Maharashtra and Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the names of such colleges and the number of such seats college-wise;

(c) what is the procedure for filling up these seats;

(d) what is the eligibility criteria for admission on these seats;

(e) whether Government have received a number of complaints about mismanag ment and irregularities in filling up these seats; and

(f) if so, what action Government have proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (f)-A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) College-wise number of MBBS seats in the State of Maharashtra, made available to Government of India during the current academic year 1994-95, is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Number of MBBS seats
1.	Grant's Medical College, Bombay	2
2.	B.J. Medical College, Pune	2
3.	Government Medical College, Nagpur	2
4.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur	1
5.	Government Medical College, Aurangabad	1
6.	S.R.T.R. Medical College, Ambajogoi	1
7.	Dr. V. M. Medical College, Solapur	1
8.	Government Medical College, Miraj	1
9.	Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram, Wardha	4

No MBBS seat in the State of Punjab has been made available to Government of India.

(c) and (d) Categories listed in Statement-I are eligible for these seats and are to be selected as per the stipulated guidelines at Statement-II *(See below)*

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Categories of Candidates Entitled to Central Pool MBBS/BDS Seats

	Category
1.	Students belonging to States/ Union Territories with no medical/dental colleges.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Surinder Kumar Singla.